

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

Application No.: 10/646,304

Docket No.: 60684:1748

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A valve stem seal assembly with changeable cap, comprising:  
a retainer having an outer surface with a first gripping member; and  
a cap made of a flexible material and having at least one break-away tab with a ~~second~~ gripping member for engaging the first gripping member on the retainer to snap-fit the cap on the retainer,  
wherein the cap is capable of being removed from said retainer by bending the at ~~least~~ one break-away tab such that the second gripping member on said cap no longer engages the first gripping member on said retainer.
2. (Original) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 1, further comprising a sealing element bonded to the cap.
3. (Original) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said retainer is made of a flexible material.
4. (Original) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 3, wherein said retainer is made of a plastic material.
5. (Original) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said cap is made of a plastic material.
6. (Original) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said sealing element is made of an elastomeric material.
7. (Currently Amended) A valve stem seal assembly, comprising:  
a retainer having an outer surface with a first gripping member; and  
a cap made of a flexible material and having at least one break-away tab with a second gripping member for engaging the first gripping member on the retainer,  
wherein said cap is capable of being snap-fit onto said retainer by moving said retainer relative to said cap such that the ~~first~~second gripping member engages said first gripping member, and

Application No.: 10/646,304

Docket No.: 60681748

wherein said cap is capable of being removed from said retainer by bending the at least one break-away tab such that the second gripping member on said cap no longer engages the first gripping member on said retainer.

8. (Original) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 7, further comprising a sealing element bonded to the cap.
9. (Original) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 7, wherein said retainer is made of a flexible material.
10. (Original) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 9, wherein said retainer is made of a plastic material.
11. (Original) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 7, wherein said cap is made of a plastic material.
12. (Original) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 7, wherein said sealing element is made of an elastomeric material.
13. (Currently Amended) A valve stem seal assembly with changeable cap, comprising:  
a retainer having an outer surface with at least one first rib extending outward from the outer surface; and  
a cap made of a flexible material and having at least one break-away tab with at least one second rib extending inward of the cap for engaging the first rib on the retainer to snap-fit the cap on the retainer,  
wherein the cap is capable of being removed from said retainer by bending the at least one break-away tab such that the second rib on said cap no longer engages the first rib on said retainer.
14. (Previously Presented) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 13, further comprising a sealing element bonded to the cap.

Application No.: 10/646,304

Docket No.: 60691748

15. (Previously Presented) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 13, wherein said retainer is made of a flexible material.

16. (Previously Presented) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 15, wherein said retainer is made of a plastic material.

17. (Previously Presented) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 13, wherein said cap is made of a plastic material.

18. (Previously Presented) The valve stem seal assembly according to Claim 13, wherein said sealing element is made of an elastomeric material.

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning  
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

**BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

☐ **BLACK BORDERS**

☐ **IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**

☐ **FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**

☒ **BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**

☐ **SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**

☐ **COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**

☐ **GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**

☒ **LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**

☐ **REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**

☐ **OTHER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

**As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.**